MASON'S

COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

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ALASKAN RELICS AND CURIOSITIES.

(*Concluded.*)

The Kaloe tradition of the creation is given by Captain Fast as follows:

"A being, which they represent to themselves as of human form and furnished with wings, and which they call Crow, created first itself, then the world, and finally the first two Tshingits (as Kaloshians call themselves collectively), male and female, who were formed of grass. The Tsh'ngits began to increase and spread, but suddenly there was universal darkness, and all life stopped in the entire world. The sun had disappeared—a powerful Tshingit had stolen it in order to keep it for himself, and it was discovered that he kept it hidden in a large strong box in his house on the island of Japan (a small island in the bay of Sitka), where nobody could obtain it; when, lo! there appeared for the second time that winged being, the Crow, who changed himself into a real crow, and in this shape found opportunity to steal secretly into the robber's house, and to open the box where the sun was stowed away. Thereupon the Crow set the sun so high over the horizon that it could not be stolen again. The world began to live afresh, and the Tshingits multiplied and spread all over the earth. Suddenly there appeared a tremendous flood, which swallowed up all living things upon the face of the world, and all the Tshingits perished with the exception of a single couple. The Crow appeared for the third and last time, and saved the couple by depositing them on the summit of a high mountain, and when the flood subsided the twain descended to the valleys, built a hut and became the progenitors of all succeeding generations."

We think this tradition must have had some connection wth the myths of Japan. According to Klaproth, Isanangi and Isanami, the last of the seven celestial generations, were the first pair who married, and whose children were a daughter, Tensio-daisin, the spirit of the solar light, Chukino-kami, the goddess of the moon, and Firuko, the god of the sea, winds and tempests. He committed all sorts of outrages, and so vexed and affrighted his elder sister that she hid herself in a rocky cavern of the sky, and fastened herself in with a large stone. The world was immediately covered with darkness, and the gods assembled to consult how they could induce her to come out. This was effected by setting all the birds to sing before her cave. Charmed by their singing, and wondering at the music and dancing when the universe was in darkness, she from curiosity stepped her foot outside, and instantly one of the gods closed the entrance behind her. They all besought her to hide herself no more, and punished Firuko by pulling out his hair and the nails of his hands and feet.

Bro. Goble has given us substantially the same story.

The Japanese tradition of the flood has less resemblance to that of the Alaskans. It is in substance this: that Fikofofo demi, the fourth in succession from the gods who descended to earth, lost his brother's fish-hook and was compelled to go down to the bottom of the sea to recover it. There he found the god of the ocean dwelling in a magnificent palace, and becoming attached to his beautiful daughter, he married her. After remaining three years, he proposed to visit his brother and deliver to him the fish-hook. They consented, and at his departure gave him two talismanic stones, the one to produce a flood, the other an ebb of the ocean, that in case his brother should attempt to detain him he might use these powerful weapons against him. As anticipated, the elder brother would not let him go back; so he threw the flood stone into the sea, and immediately the waves inundated the whole land. His brother, in alarm, made his submission and pleaded for his life. Fikofofo then threw in the other stone, and the waves retired to their ancient bounds.

It may not be without significance that the crow also plays an important part in Japanese, as well as Alaskan legends. When Jinmu-Teno, their first emperor, was in the height of his troubles, he dreamed of a crow that was to be his guide and deliverer, and immediately on his awaking saw his dream verified in the descent of a crow from the sky. The legend states that it was the god of thunder who, assuming this form, flew before the Mikado and led him on to victory. The Athapaskan Indians, like Alaskans, attribute creation to the crow or raven, tracing their descent from "a mighty bird, whose eyes were fire, whose glances were lightning, and the clapping of whose wings was thunder. On his descent to the ocean the earth instantly rose and remained on the surface of the water. This omnipotent bird then called forth all the variety of animals." *Myths of the New World*, p. 195.

Such wide-spread common traditions triumphantly establish the unity of the race.

ENGLISH COINS

Struck for the American Colonies and Coins issued by the Federal Government previous to the establishment of the Mint, in 1792.

Under William and Mary (1694), a coin was struck having on the obverse the figure of an elephant, and on the reverse, "God preserve New England, 1694." Another with the same obverse bore upon the reverse, "God preserve Carolina and the Lords Proprietors, 1694." No such coins were ever in circulation, and specimens are exceedingly rare.—During the reign of William and Mary, the colony of Massachusetts petitioned for permission to coin money, as they had done; but the request was denied. So great was the scarcity of small change, that many persons stamped pieces of brass and tin, passing them to their customers for a penny each. An act was passed forbidding this practice.

An American coin or medal was issued in 1776, an inch and a half in diameter; on one side was inscribed in a circular ring near the edge, "Continental Currency, 1776;" within the ring, a rising sun, with the word "Fugio" at the side, shining upon a dial, under which was the motto "Mind your Business." On the reverse were thirteen small circles joined together like the rings of a chain, on each one of which was inscribed the

name of some one of the thirteen States; on another ring within these was inscribed "American Congress," and in the centre "We are One." No coins were ever in curculation, as currency, of this type, but copies of the medal are extant, struck in white metal.

A copper coin issued in Massachusetts in 1776, nearly of the size of half a dollar, had upon the obverse "Massachusetts State," with a pine tree in the centre of the coin. Reverse, "Liberty and Virtue, 1776," a female seated on a globe, holding in her right hand an olive leaf, in her left a staff. It is believed that the die for this coin was cut by that celebrated patriot of the Revolution, Paul Revere, who was by trade a goldsmith and engraver. Paul Revere and Nathaniel Hurd, of Boston, Amos Doolittle, of New Haven, and an Englishman, named Smithers, in Philadelphia, were the only engravers in America at that time. In 1766, Revere engraved a picture emblematic of the repeal of the Stamp Act. This, and a caricature called the Seventeen Rescinders, were very popular and had an extensive sale. He engraved and published a print in 1770, representing the "Boston Massacre," and in 1774 he engraved another of a similar size, representing the landing of the British troops in Bosion. In 1775, he engraved the plates, made the press, and printed the bills of the paper money ordered by the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts.

In 1787, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a copper coin, having on one side an Indian with his bow and arrow, near his forehead a star, around the coin the word "Commonwealth;" on the other side, the American eagle holding in his right talon an olive branch, in the left a bunch of arrows, on its breast a shield, on which is inscribed the word "Cent;" around the edge of the coin "Massachusetts, 1787." Half cents of the same type were struck.

In 1776, was coined a New York cent. Vermont coined cents for four successive years. One variety has on the obverse an eye with rays extending from it, which are divided by thirteen stars. Around the coin are the words "*Quarta Decima Stella;*" reverse, the sun rising from behind the mountains, a plow in the foreground, with the legend, "*Vermont, Ensium Res Publica,*" and the date 1785. The Connecticut cents bear dates 1785, 1786 and 1787. A coin struck in Lancaster, England, in 1761, for circulation in America, called the Kentucky cent, bore the mottos, "Unanimity is the strength of society," and "Our cause is just." On one side were fifteen stars in the form of a triangle; on the three stars are indented the initials of the several states, Kentucky heading the column.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(*Continued.*)

I have deviated from the main subject for a moment, in order to give a brief exposition of the first national debt, under the funding system of a celebrated financier, and now return to the consideration of the unredeemed paper money. The illustrious statesmen of the Revolutionary Congress had the best disposition to pay that currency, and they professed to have the ability so to do. They felt themselves bound in honor to discharge, at their full value, bills emitted by themselves, and bearing on their face a solemn engagement to redeem them in Spanish dollars, or

the value thereof in gold or silver. To do this, however, required a season of tranquility; but the country was invaded by land and by water; it required power to levy taxes, and this was denied them; it required the industry of peaceful times to enable the people to contribute: but the war, in constant activity, baffled every attempt at regular employment. Congress had not even a choice of evils; they had no alternative. One source of revenue only was at their command, and that was the emission of bills of credit. The very necessity of the case forced them to misuse and abuse it; for even in its depreciated condition, paper money offered facilities so attractive that the great men at the head of affairs, always intending to pay them, were glad to find the people willing, at the current exchange, to receive that which could be so easily and liberally supplied.

"Who," said a member, during a debate upon this subject, "will consent to load his constituents with taxes, when we can send to our printer and get a wagon load of money, and pay for the whole with a quire of paper?" And with wagon loads, thus cheaply obtained, they carried on the campaign of the two years, 1778 and 1779, keeping an army of thirty or forty thousand men in the field, issuing paper to the amount of sixty-three millions for the former year, and seventy-two millions for the latter, and thus, with an active printing press, and a few commissioners hired by the day or by the job to sign the bills, ways and means were found to defray almost the whole expense of the civil list, the army and navy, and contingencies. There was, indeed, a little hard money passing through the treasury. The exact sums received in both those years, having been officially reported to Congress, stand recorded on their journals. If it were not attested in this authentic shape, it would be difficult to believe it. Marvellous as it may appear, the aggregate of gold and silver received into the treasury for the year 1778 was only seventy-eight thousand, six hundred and sixty-six dollars ($78,666), and for the year 1779 the sum of seventy-three thouand dollars ($73,000); so that the whole machinery of government was carried on for two entire years, as far as concerned the agency of specie, with one hundred and fifty one thousand six hundred and sixty-six dollars! So small an expenditure in metalic currency shows the powerful agency of paper in the belligerent operations at that critical period; performing, as it did, in spite of counterfeits and depreciation, the office of hard money.

This handful of solid coin, which in gold would weigh only seven hundred pounds, and might be put into a wheelbarrow, was all that came, as we have seen, into the public chest for two years; and we may not be surprised at the Government being so chary of it as to refuse General Washington's demand of a small share to pay a part of the bounty to enlisted soldiers. In denying him, they declared that the precious metals must be kept for the commissaries of prisoners, to be used where paper would not pass.

(*To be continued.*)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(*Continued.*)

Vermont Cent, 1788, Vermon Auctori; reverse, Liberty seated; uncirculated; rare. $2 25.

Vermon Auctori, 1788; bust laureated and in armor on the reverse; uncirculated. $2 12½.

Vermont Cent, 1785; obverse, bust, Georgius III rex; reverse, Liberty seated, Immune Columbia; fine; extremely rare. $8.

Vermont Cent, 1788; obverse, bust, Georgius III rex; reverse, Liberty seated, Inde. et Lib. 62½ cents.

Vermont Cent, 1788; obverse, bust of George III, but of an entirely different design from the last; reverse, Inde., &c.; fine. 62½ cents.

Vermon Auctori, 1788; bust in armor, with a band across the breast; legend on the reverse, punctuated with a cross, a dot and a cross. 75 cents.

Vermon Auctori, 1788; obverse, like the last; reverse, without punctuation; very fine. 75 cents.

Vermon Auctori, 1788; legend on the obverse, punctuated with dots; very fine. 62½ cents.

Vermon Auctori, 1788; similar design, but obverse and reverse without dots; very fine. 75 cents.

Vermon Auctori, 1788; a selection of four pieces, all different; one uncirculated and two fine. 75 cents each.

Vermon Auctori, with head of Connecticut Cent; scarce. 87½ cents.

Vermon Auctori, 1788; reverse, Brittania; fine. 62½ cents.

Massachusetts Cent, 1787; in this piece the olive branch and arrows are in reversed positions; of this type only one other is known, and this was formerly in the collection of Seth E. Pecker, Esq., of Boston; very fine. $40.

Massachusetts Cent, 1787; the reverse has heavy letters, the head of the Indian bowed; fine. $2.

Massachusetts Cent, 1787; the reverse with light letters; fine. $2 62½.

Massachusetts Cent, 1787; uncirculated. $4 50.

Massachusetts Half Cent, 1787; uncirculated. $2 50.

Massachusetts Half Cent, 1787, from a different die; uncirculated. $1 12½.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788; uncirculated. $1 50.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788. In this variety the letter S resembles the figure 8; uncirculated. $1 50.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788, with two distinct lines over the date; bundle of seven large arrows; very fine. $1 25.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788, two lines over the date; bundle of seven small arrows; very fine. $1.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788, one long and one short line over the date; eight small arrows; very fine. 62 cents.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788, with long line over the date, extending beyond the figures. 62½ cents.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788, with a single sharp pointed line: very fine. 55 cents.

Massachusetts Cent, 1788, single pointed line, but short; uncirculated. 50 cents.

Massachusetts Half Cent, 1788, uncirculated; very fine indeed; scarce. $1 87½

Massachusetts Half Cent, 1788; another die; almost as fine; scarce. $2.

ROMAN FAMILY COINS.

While transferring an article upon this subject from the columns of the September number of the American Journal of Numismatics to our magazine, we take occasion to rejoice at the commendable spirit displayed by the writer (Prof. Anthon) in adopting an *explanatory system* when giving the titles, legends, etc., found upon the interesting and instructive ancient family coins of Rome. Prof. Anthon has inaugurated a move in the right direc-

tion; and as one of the dealers to whom he refers as complaining of *too much learning*, we thank the Professor in behalf of the unlearned numismatic fraternity. The article we copy is a plain, convincing argument that we were right in asking our high stilted philosophers, who were delving among the debris of the dark ages, to come down among the *every-day world folks*, who admire without comprehending the wonderful knowledge they possess. Those of our readers who supposed a collegiate course of study necessary to qualify them to interpret the puzzling signs, symbols and characteristics of the ancient coinage of the world, will be astonished after perusing the following lucid article, to know how simple and easy the work can be accomplished:

"The charge of an unnecessary and unpopular degree of *learning* has been recently reiterated in print against this Journal. In resuming, therefore, after a long interval, a subject which certainly ranks with justice among the *learned* ones, we intend, in deference to the opinion of objectors who entertain that view, to translate, literally, in *Italics*, every Latin word or abbreviation which may present itself; while, in the way of historical reference, we shall confine ourselves to Liddell's History of Rome, an excellent book, indeed, but as accessible and as easily read as any history of the United States. Farther than this we cannot stoop; and, in deviating to such an extent from our previous course, we are in fact likely to give offence to more judicious readers, who rightly consider—like the distinguished personage who once told a teasingly explanatory lawyer that there were "some things which a Chief Justice of the United States might be expected to comprehend"—who rightly consider, we say, that there are some few things which a professed numismatist may probably know.

Confining ourselves, as before, to those Roman families of whose coins we ourselves possess specimens, and our desire being to show, by examples, how much interest attaches to the whole class, we proceed to take up:

AQUILLIA. *Obv.* III VIR VIR TVS. *Triumvir*, that is, "Triumvir Monetalis," or one of the Three Commissioners of the Mint, whose office established, as Niebuhr thinks, B. C. 269, when the Romans first began to coin silver, was one of great importance—though its term was but a single year—and preceded every other in the career of public honors; *Valor*. Head of Valor as a youth, in helmet with two plumes, to right.

Rev. M'- AQVIL M'- F-M' N Exergue SICIL. This legend is "Manius Aquillius, Manii Filius, Manii Nepos," the first letter which, according to custom, we represent by M' being on the coin a peculiar character indicating Manius, *i. e.*, literally one born *mane*, in the morning. The meaning, therefore, is *Manius Aquillius, son of Manius, grandson of Manius*. The word "Sicilia" affords the explanation of the device, viz.: a kneeling woman supporting herself with her right hand, and raised from the ground by a soldier in a tunic, with a shield on his left arm.

The triumvir of the mint celebrates here a great action of his grandfather, who when colleague of Marius in the latter's fifth consulship, B. C. 101, tranquilized the province of Sicily after a servile war, and obtained in consequence the honor of an ovation. This Sicilian servile war which Aquillius extinguished was the second. The first occurred B. C. 133, and was sup-

pressed by L. Calpurnius Piso, called "Frugi," or "the man of honor," and P. Rupilius (Liddell, 500) during the next two years. The leaders of the slaves in the second war were Slavius and a Cilician named Athenio. Slavius assumed the name of Tryphon; on his death Antonio succeeded him. In a single combat Arquillius was severely wounded and Athenio killed (Lidd. 562–4). When Arquillius was tried for rapacity, his advocate Antonius, the celebrated orator, grandfather of Mark Antony, displayed to the public view the scars on the old soldier's breast. The spectators, including Marius, wept, and Aquillius was acquitted (id. 572). At the beginning of the Mithridatic war, B. C. 88, Aquillius was delivered up to the Mithridates by the Lesbians, paraded about on an ass, and then put to death by having moulten gold poured down his throat (id. 596).

Now, in our way of thinking, this knowledge is of value to those who possess the denarius, or may in time possess it. If it be "learning," it is of the kind termed "cheap" learning, even as the piece itself is cheap, being common and worth from half to three-fourths of a dollar. Yet we venture to assert that in point of fact such a coin, with its historic associations, so easily traced out, is more interesting to an intelligent person than any one in the whole Mint Series of the United States; and we believe, moreover, that dealers will find it to their advantage to encourage this well-founded persuasion and contribute to its acceptance in the public mind, rather than by stupid complaints about excess of "learning" to lower their own trade and endeavor to to drive from the market a vast proportion of their own merchandise."

(*To be continued.*)

RETROSPECTIVE AND PROSPECTIVE.

1869 AND 1870.

One more year has nearly passed and one more volume of our journal completed. It becomes proper to take this occasion to chat with our readers on the past history of the coin trade, and speculate, as far as human foresight will permit, in regard to the future prospects of the subjects upon which this publication treats. During the year now rapidly drawing to a close, several important numismatic collections have been brought to the hammer, and dispersed to make more complete the cabinets of those who prefer to hoard and hold their numismatic treasures. 1869 will always be remembered as the year in which more coin cabinets were disposed of at public auction than any previous twelve months in the history of the coin trade. An explanation of the multiplicity of coin sales is found in the extravagant prices coins have realized at auction—a remarkable instance being at the sale of Mackenzie's coins, where an 1811 U. S. cent was sold for $72 50. Another noted fact is the increase of coin collectors. In 1868, there were in this country and British Provinces, as near as we can estimate, from unusual facilities, about one thousand regular and experienced numismatists. In 1869, this number increased to two thousand; of the latter number, about two hundred collectors are in possession of fine cabinets. In 1868, there were but two journals devoted to numismatics; in 1869, three; historical, archæological and numismatic associations have nearly doubled in the United States since 1867. Thus we go, increasing year by year, and adding to the scientific knowledge of the world. At the present writing there is a lull in

the coin trade—in fact, we might say, a lull in every branch of business throughout the country, and this is the harvest time to gather fine pieces for a coin cabinet. Many collectors are necessitated from want of money, to dispose of their coins; and when times again become good and money plenty, these coins will increase in value and cannot so readily be purchased. Now is the accepted time for beginers and others to lay in choice pieces, and our word for it another year's time will prove the wisdom and correctness of our assertion.

A word for our journal, and we close this lengthy article. It has been a favorite idea with the publishers to make this magazine acceptable to all who have favored us with their patronage. That we have succeeded, our subscription book fully proves. That we have not increased and illustrated our journal to the extent we desired is a fault of our exchequer, which can be readily remedied by an increased list of subscribers. If we succeed in doubling the list of subscribers, we will double the size of the journal and add plenty of illustrations of the interesting coins of our country. To each and all our patrons we return the warmest thanks for their kind and generous support, and trust that the new year will add prosperity and happiness with increased health to all.

HASELTINE'S COIN SALE.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 16 AND 17.

This sale was a decided success, and more than realised the anticipations of the owner. It seems, from the following article in the New York Tribune, that some despicable knave furnished the reporter or editor with a "back-handed notice," with a view, doubtless, of interrupting the sale of Philadelphia coin collections in the New York market, or with a determination to injure the managers of said sales. If we succeed in obtaining the name of the vile miscreant who furnished the report, as given in the New York Tribune, and that, too, without making an effort to ascertain the truth or falsity of the charges there so confidently asserted, we will engage to bring him to a humiliating confession of his vileness, or give him a public cowhiding, which ever he prefers. To those of our citizens familiar with the facts, it is unnecessary to offer a refutation of the slander; but as many other persons may read and believe the Tribune's article without explanation, we give the account of the sale, as published in the Tribune, together with our communication in reply. In justice to our management of Haseltine's sale, and the gentlemen who entrusted us with their bids upon that occasion, we would say that every lot in the catalogue was sold without the slightest reserve.

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"Mason & Co.'s seventh coin sale was concluded yesterday. Fewer buyers than usually come out on such occasions were attracted. Nos. 530 to 681 on the catalogue consisted wholly of cents and half cents. A somewhat suspicious *furore* was created over '1795; Randall's celebrated Jefferson head, differing materially from the ordinary 1795 cents.' The said cent was entered in the catalogue as having been sold at the Randall sale, on the 18th ult., for $141. It was struck down yesterday, after a good deal of noise, for $145. There is excellent reason to believe that in both cases no genuine bids were obtained at anything approaching that sum. A cent of 1821 went for $23, and all other cents for much less. A half cent of 1852 was

struck down for $7, and one of 1795 for $3. Medals went cheap. Pine tree shillings of 1652 were struck down for $5, $3 50 and $3 62½, according to the slant of the roots and general condition of the tree.—*N. Y. Tribune, Nov.* 18.

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PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 18, 1869.

Editor New York Daily Tribune:

DEAR SIR: In your daily issue of the Tribune of November 18, you give an account of our "Seventh Coin Sale," which recently occurred at the auction rooms of Messrs. Bangs, Merwin & Co., No. 694 Broadway, New York. In this account you assert that there is not the slightest reason to believe that genuine bids were given or offered for the "1795 Jefferson Head Cent." We trust you will do us the justice to refute the story which has gained currency from your report of said sale, to the great injury and detriment of our business. Mr. J. W. Haseltine, Treasurer of several of our mining companies, whose office is at 506 Walnut street, Philadelphia, is a gentleman of unimpeachable integrity and one of our most respected citizens. This gentleman purchased the cent above alluded to, in Randall's coin sale of the 18th ult., for $141, with a special view to placing it in his own collection to add attractiveness to a disposal by auction of his own cabinet of coins, which were then being catalogued for the sale to which you allude, viz.: Haseltine's coin sale of last Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 16th and 17th inst., at Bangs, Merwin & Co's, Broadway, New York. At the latter sale, J. C. Randall, Esq., 1209 Race street, of this city, visited New York expressly to purchase the Jefferson Head Cent of 1795, at any price, having regretted parting with it at his own sale of the 18th ult. Mr. J. C. Randall is a well-known, wealthy and respected citizen of Philadelphia, and regrets that a paper of such influence and standing as the Tribune should give currency to such a *slanderous* and unjust intimation of his actions at the late coin sale. With those acquainted with our mode of doing business, as coin dealers and publishers, a refutation of the slander might be unnecessary, but that the names of two gentlemen of this city, of unblemished reputation, should be connected with such a serious charge as given in your article of the 18th inst. is, to say the least, grievous and unbearable. You will oblige us by substantiating the innuendo, or at least give the public the benefit of this statement of facts. If necessary, we will furnish you with the affidavits of a dozen prominent citizens, who were aware that Mr. Haseltine bid for and bought the 1795 cent for $141, in the Randall sale, and that Mr. Randall bid for and bought the same piece at a subsequent sale, for $145, and now owns this excessively rare and valuable coin, believed to be the finest of the kind in the world. At Mackensie's coin sale, at Leavitt & Strebeigh's auction rooms, Clinton Hall, New York, an Ameri cent of 1793 brought, at public sale, the same amount, $145—and there are in existence a dozen 1793 Ameri variety where there is one of the celebrated Jefferson Head Cent of 1795. By inserting this communication, you will do an act of justice, and in a measure counteract the effects of the injurious statement you have given publicity to.

MASON & CO.

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SALE OF BARTRAM'S COLLECTION.

A small collection of coins, medals, etc., from the estate of John Bartram (deceased), was sold, at

public auction, by Martin Brothers, Chestnut street, of this city, November 29 and 30. For some reasons, the knowledge of this sale was kept from the public until within a few days prior to the time fixed upon for its disposal, and catalogues were received too late to send to our distant subscribers. Parties offering coin collections for public sale should always give dealers and publishers at least three weeks' notice of an intended sale. Had we received catalogues of Bartram's sale in time to get in our outside bids and notices in our journal, there would have been a better exhibit, pecuniarily, at the result of this coin sale. The meagre results of this sale should be a warning to others having in view public coin sales, and teach them to give at least a month's notice of any intended sale. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

COIN SALES.

Leonard & Co., auctioneers, Boston, had a small sale of coins on the 18th of November—very few fine or valuable pieces offered in the badly arranged catalogue. If that sale was "Trifet & Co's *first.*" we hope it will be their *last*, unless they learn some of the first rules of numismatology, familiar to every beginner, and give the buyer some little knowledge of the coins they offer for sale.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. N.—Get up a club of ten for 1870, only ten dollars. Our terms remain the same next year, $1 50 per annum.

P. H. L.—Only nine pieces in the set of "Postal Currency," although some collectors claim ten, the tenth being simply a pattern dime without the words "Postal currency."

G. M. P.—The Bartram sale was rushed through in such hot haste that we had no opportunity to send you catalogues. We regret it, as the coins will sell at a sacrifice. Of course, dealers will harvest the best pieces at extremely low prices.

RELIC SALE.

A continuation sale of Professor Dickeson's Peale's Museum relics, prints, autographs, books, minerals, curiosities, precious stones, etc., will be held on the 1st of December. Catalogues forwarded to all interested.

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

THE STUDY OF PHILATELY.

(*Concluded.*)

As we see the square Holstein stamps with their Denmark like appearance, giving place to the Prussian oval, we trace the rumblings of the storm which deafened Europe with the thunders of war. * * * I pass to chronological history. * * If we cross the water we find our French neighbors with four changes. A fruit crowned goddess of Liberty tells of a time of sad dissention.

A second issue for the Republic is before us; this time with the head of Louis Napoleon, President. In how short a time that lasted, we gather from the fact that but two values were printed during his term of office.

Next follows a series, both imperforated and perforated, as Empire Français, telling of growing stability, rendering fitting at last the laurel crown, which we welcome as a pleasing variety on our French pages.

The change of portraits (as in Saxony) tells us of a new king, united arms (as in Moldo Wallachia) betokens amalgamated states. Our albums remind us, also, how

the East Indian Company, perpetuated in the Scinde Dawk stamp, gave way to our British Government; how Buenos Ayres and Corrientes became swallowed up in the Argentine Confederation; how the north west provinces of South America have amalgamated and split and re-amalgamated; all plainly put before us in the several issues of those countries. * * *

Those who go more deeply into the study of these matters, amongst other advantages, gain a knowledge of paper manufacture, discerning wove, surface laid, pelure, etc.; engraving, also, so as to tell at a glance, lithograph or steel engraving, surface printing and analine colors, wood cut or hand stamp. It has been well said "to know any one thing perfectly is a long way in the knowledge of other things," so a perfect knowledge of philately combines some knowledge at least of geography, history, portraiture, engraving, paper manufacture, heraldry and currency.—*Philatelist.*

HOW OUR NEW POSTAGE STAMPS ARE MADE.

BY COSMOPOLITAN.

(*Concluded.*)

After passing through the embossing press they are perforated by young girls on peculiarly constructed and beautiful machines, the invention of this company. After being perforated they are subjected to the action of a powerful hydraulic press to get rid of all wrinkles and give the stamp a finished, smooth appearance. The sheets are then cut in half, leaving one hundred and fifty stamps on a sheet, and in this condition are ready for the post masters to whom they are sent in registered letters upon a requisition approved in Washington. The stamps printed in two colors require to pass through the press twice, as only one ink can be used at a time on a plate. Have my readers any idea of the number of stamps used in the United States and printed by this company.

They reach the fearful aggregate of from four to five hundred millions per annum. Of the three cent stamp there were used 37,879,100; of the two cent stamp 6,322,500, and the other values in proportion.

I was surprised to find upon inquiry that it is very seldom the company lose any stamps by their employees. At the present time this company employ about four hundred workmen and women, but the system is so thorough, and the surveilance so searching, that it is impossible for theft to be committed without detection. At present the National Bank Note Company are working upon two and three cent stamps only, as the post office authorities propose to call in the rest of the new issue, owing to the manifold objection made by the community at large. The principal cause of complaint is that the stamps are not sufficiently national in character. This objection does not hold good. Take the one cent Franklin head—nothing could be more appropriate, Franklin having been the first postmaster in this country. The three cent stamp is certainly indicative of this nation, thoroughly a go-ahead one, and nothing could be better, according to my ideas, than Cornwallis's Surrender and the Declaration of Independence—two great events that should be kept perpetually before the eyes of the people. But the fiat has gone forth, and we must submit to the powers that be. New designs are now in course of preparation, and before long we may expect their issue. I am informed that all the new stamps will either represent heads or busts of prominent public men.—*Am. Journal of Philately.*

NEW ISSUES.

NICARAGUA.

We note the emission of a one centavo of same design as the rest of the set, and bistre color.

TRINDAD.

The *Philatelist* mentions having received all the values of this colony with the words *too late* stamped thereon.

ST. VINCENT.

From the same journal, we also learn that a four penny of a different color and one shilling brown are now ready and will be emitted as soon as the old stock is exhausted.

UNITED STATES.

We have lately seen a specimen of the three cent stamp of 1861, printed in dark purple, which the owner stated was bought by him at the Philadelphia P. O., about two years since.

FRANCE.

The long expected five franc has at last made its appearance. The color is lilac and the stamp double the size of the rest of the series.

PHILATELIC ITEMS.

The single rate of postage in Mexico is twenty-five centavos, which the officials generally manage to collect at both ends of the route. In addition to paying postage, the merchants in some of the seaport towns have to employ couriers to carry their correspondence, the government not furnishing the proper facilities.

It is expected the postage to England will shortly be reduced to six cents per half ounce.

CRESTS AND MONOGRAMS.

We can now supply collectors with Crests and Monograms at the following prices: 20 varieties, beautifully stamped in colored relief, 25 cents; 50 varieties, beautifully stamped in colored relief, 75 cents. Address MASON & CO.,

No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

COINS FOR SALE.

U. S. CENTS.

Date.	Condition.	Price.
1793	very poor	$ 50
1793	very fair	1 50
1793	very good	3 00
1794, '95 '96	good	1 50
1794, '95 '96	extra good.	2 50
1797, '98	very good.	50
1799	very poor.	2 00
1799	very fair.	5 00
1799	very good.	10 00
1800, '1, '2 '3	very good.	1 25
1804	fair.	1 50
1804	very fair.	2 50
1804	good.	5 00
1805, '06 '07	poor.	25
1805, '06 '07	fair.	50
1805, '06 '07	good.	1 50
1808	fair.	25
1808	good.	50
1809	poor.	50
1809	good.	1 50
1810, '11 '12	poor.	25
1810, '11 '12	very good.	1 00
1813,	good.	50
1817, '20	very good.	40
1821, '24	good.	30
1825, '30	very good.	30
1857	very good.	15

(All other dates, 1831 to 1856 inclusive, 5 cents each. Special terms by letter for finer cents).

U. S. HALF CENTS.

1793	poor.	1 50
1793.	good.	3 00
1794, '95	good.	1 50
1794, '95	good.	1 00
1797, 1800	fair.	50
1803, '4, '5, '6, '7,	very good.	50
1808, '09, '10,	very good.	50
1825, '29	very good.	25
1832, '35	very good.	25
1849, '51	very good.	15
1853, '57	very good.	50
No. 28 to 39,		3 00
1802, '11	very fair.	3 00

FOREIGN COINS.

12 different.	very good.	50
15 do	very good.	1 00
10 do	extra fine.	1 50
5 Roman coins,	good.	1 00
25	silver coins.	5 00

STORE CARDS.

10 cards.	good.	35
10 cards.	fine.	50

☞ All the above sent by mail. Prices furnished and rare coins obtained, in any condition, upon application. Lists corrected monthly.